REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 26-57 are pending in the present application.

Applicants wish to extend their sincere appreciation to Examiner Mertz for the helpful and courteous discussion with their undersigned Representative on January 31, 2003. Applicants would also like to acknowledge Examiner Mertz for the helpful suggestions to address the current grounds of rejection. The amendment provided herein arises from this discussion.

Based on the discussion with the Examiner, Applicants submit that the cancellation of Claims 15-25 and the presentation of new Claims 26-57 obviate the rejections of Claims 16-25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph (written description and enablement), and under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawals of these grounds of rejection are requested.

The objections to the specification are obviated by amendment. Applicants submit herewith an Abstract in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b). Withdrawal of these objections is requested.

Finally, Applicants note that the election of Group XVI, filed on October 10, 2002, was *with traverse*. Applicants submit that copies of the response as filed on October 10, 2002, can be refiled evidencing the election with traverse, if necessary.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Vincent K. Shier, Ph.D.
Registration No. 50,552

22850

Tel.: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 412-2220
NFO:VKS

6

MARKED-UP COPY

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please insert the Abstract submitted herewith as new page 36.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following text before page 4, line 25:

Brief Description of the Drawings

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 16-25.

Amend the claims as follows:

--5. (Amended) An isolated DNA [sequence] molecule encoding a peptide consisting

of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.: 2 or SEQ ID NO.: 4.--

--26. – 57. (New)--